

# Philippians

**Help! I need somebody.**

# Audience & Purpose

- Paul had a vision on his 2nd missionary journey
  - A Macedonian man was asking for help
  - Paul and his companions ended up in Philippi
    - He and Barnabas were thrown in jail and set free by an earthquake
    - Their jailer and his family became Christians

# Audience & Purpose

Paul wrote for three reasons:

1. To thank the them for a gift
2. To update them on his circumstances in prison
3. To encourage them to be like-minded and humble with each other

# Theme

- The theme of this letter is joy.
- Theme verse  
Philippians 4:4--Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

# Characteristics

- It is the most personal of Paul's letters
- There are no OT quotations in this letter

# People

- Paul's opponents--they tried to stir up trouble while Paul was in prison
- Legalists--Like the Judaizers, they tried to push circumcision on Gentile Christians
- Libertines--they proposed a hedonistic lifestyle

# Teachings

- Joy
  - Not joy based on circumstances
  - Joy based on confidence in God and his faithfulness
- Humility--Jesus gave us an example of how we should act toward one another

# Teachings

- Pressing on--we should not give up or let obstacles stand in our way in trying to live for God
- Contentment--we must learn to accept our circumstances without complaint



# Colossians

**The Right Stuff**

# Audience & Purpose

- Paul wrote to the church in Colossae. (It is likely that he never actually visited the church.)
- Paul wrote to respond to the heresy of Gnosticism

# Audience and Purpose

- **Gnosticism**

- It blended elements of Christianity, Judaism, and Paganism.

- It emphasized ritual

- Circumcision

- Food laws

- Holy days

# Audience & Purpose

- It claimed access to secret knowledge and wisdom.
- It included the worship of angels.
- It devalued Christ.

# Theme

- Colossians theme is the preeminence and supremacy of Christ.

- Theme verse

Colossians 2:9-10 (NLT) <sup>9</sup> For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. <sup>10</sup> So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

# Characteristics

- The deity of Christ
- Doctrine and application (like Ephesians)

# Teachings

- **Fullness**—Jesus is completely God.
- **Mystery**  
In refuting Gnosticism Paul says:
  1. God has revealed the mystery to everyone.
  2. The mystery is Jesus himself.
  3. There really is no secret or mystery. Jesus has been revealed to everyone who believes.